

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PEKING 01923 261023Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-11 ISO-00 HA-05 IO-13 OMB-01
TRSE-00 ACDA-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
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FM USLO PEKING
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1171
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 1923

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CH VN JA IN PF PG PEPR PINT

SUBJ: PRC OFFICIALS COMMENT ON VIETNAM, INDIA, THE SINO-SOVIET BORDER
AND OTHER ISSUES

1. SUMMARY. KO PO-NIEN VICE PRESIDENT OF THE CHINESSE
PEOPLE'S INSTITUTE FOR FOREIGNAFFAIRS, TOLD VISITING
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGANPROFESSOR ALAN WHITING THAT
VIETNAM HAD AGREED IN THE 1950S THAT THE PARACELS AND
SPRATLEY'S ARE CHINESE TERRITORY. HE SAID THE PRC WOULD
LIKE TO SHELVE THE ISSUE. KO WAS NOT OPTIMISTIC ABOUT A
SETTLEMENT OF THE SINO-INDIAN BORDER PROBLEM. DURING
WHITING'S VISIT TO SINKIANG, LOCAL OFFICIALS SAID THAT
MINOR INCIDENTS ALONG THE SINO-SOVIET BORDER ARE COMMON.
HE WAS TOLD THAT SOVIET PROPAGANDA LEAFLETS ARE OFTEN
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PEKING 01923 261023Z

DROPPED BY SOVIET PLANES WHO VIOLATE PRC AIRSPACE. END SUMMARY.

2. UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN PROFESSOR ALAN WHITING IS
JUST WINDING UP A ONE WEEK TOUR OF SINKIANG, PEKING,
AND CANTON AS AGUEST OF THE CHINESE PEOPLE'S INSTITUTE
OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (CPIFA). WHTING GAVE USLO HIGH-
LIGHTS OF HI VISIT AND HIS CONVERSATIONS WITH PRC

OFFICIALS, INCLUDING THE AGED KO PO-NIEN, CPIFA VICE PRESIDENT.

3. DURING HIS FIVE DAY VISIT TO SINKIANG, WHITING WAS ACCOMPANIED BY CPIFA OFFICIALS SHEN CHIH-HUAN AND FAN KUO-HSIANG. WHITING SAID THAT VIETNAM DOMINATED MOST OF HIS CONVERSATIONS WITH SHEN. SHEN REPEATED THE WELL-KNOWN PRC POSITIONS ON ITS CURRENT DISPUTE WITH VIETNAM AND DESCRIBED VIETNAM AS THE "CUBA OF ASIA." IN RESPONSE TO WHITING'S QUESTION, SHEN SAID THAT DOCUMENTS WERE SIGNED BY VIETNAM IN THE 1950S AND 1960S WHICH ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE PARACEL AND SPRATLY ISLANDS WERE CHINESE TERRITORY. CPIFA VICE PRESIDENT KO PO-NIEN TOLD WHITING ON JUNE 25 PHAN VAN DONG HAD SAID IN THE 1950S THAT THE ISLANDS BELONG TO CHINA. KO SAID THAT THE PRC WOULD LIKE TO PUT THE ISSUE ASIDE BUT VIETNAM KEEPS RAISING THE ISSUE BY PUBLISHING BOOKS AND MAPS.

4. KO ALSO TOLD WHITING THAT THE SENKAKU ISSUE IS SHELVED "AS FAR AS THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT IS CONCERNED". HOWEVER, KO MAINTAINED THAT THE PRC GOVERNMENT CANNOT CONTROL THE FISHERMEN. HE SAID THAT THESE PEOPLE WERE STOPPED FROM FISHING BY THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT. "THIS IS A SMALL PROBLEM AND ONLY INVOLVES ONE ISLAND."

5. ON SINO-INDIAN RELATIONS, KO SAID THAT HE WAS NOT OPTIMISTIC ABOUT A BORDER SETTLEMENT. HE STATED THAT
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PAGE 03 PEKING 01923 261023Z

THE ISSUE HAS BEEN AROUND FOR A LONG TIME AND COULD HAVE BEEN SETTLED IN THE 1950S.

6. SINO-SOVIET BORDER INCIDENTS IN SINKIANG. DURING HIS FIVE DAY TRIP TO SINKIANG, WHITING WAS TOLD BY LOCAL OFFICIALS THAT MINOR INCIDENTS ALONG THE SINO-SOVIET BORDER WERE COMMON. ABDULLAH (DEPUTY SECRETARY SINKIANG YOUNG COMMUNIST LEAGUE) TOLD WHITING THAT LAST YEAR A HERDSMAN HAD CONFRONTED SOVIET TROOPS WHO HAD WANDERED INTO CHINESE TERRITORY. THE BORDER IS NOT DEMARCATED LIKE THE SINO-MONGOLIAN BORDER WHICH, HE SAID, IS THE REASON FOR THESE MINOR INCIDENTS. HE SAID THAT SOVIET PROPAGANDA LEAFLETS ARE OFTEN DROPPED ON THE PRC SIDE OF THE BORDER. WHEN WHITING ASKED HIM ABOUT THIS, ABDULLAH SAID THAT SOVIET PLANES FLY PARALLEL TO THE BORDER AND SOMETIMES STRAY INTO CHINESE TERRITORY.

7. SAIFUDIN. WHITING ASKED BOTH ABDULLAH IN URUMCHI AND KO IN PEKING ABOUT THE REASONS BEHIND SAIFUDIN'S DISMISSAL FROM ALL HIS POSITIONS IN SINKIANG. ABDULLAH WAS VERY UNCOMFORTABLE WITH THE QUESTION AND SAID THAT SAIFUDIN HAD BEEN "PROMOTED TO THE CENTER" AS

A VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS,"JUST
LIKE YOUR VICE PRESIDENT. KO PO-NIEN REACTED IN
SIMILAR MANNER AND LAUNCHED INTO A TIRADE ABOUT HOW
AMERICANS INCORRECTLY VIEW CHINA IN TERMS OF POWER
STRUGGLES. "OBVIOUSLY, NOBODY CAN BE CONSIDERED DELIN-
QUENT IF HE HAS BEEN PROMOTED TO THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT".
HE SAID THAT THE OLDER GENERATION OF AMERICAN CHINA
EXPERTS, SUCH AS FAIRBANK AND LATTIMORE, JUST DO NOT
UNDERSTAND THE NEW CHINA.
WOODCOCK

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